

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U. S. Attorney Christopher P. Tenorio (619) 557-7843

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - July 3, 2007

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that today a federal grand jury sitting in San Diego handed up a nineteen-count Superseding Indictment charging Gloria Eugenia Leon-Aldana, Juan Andres Santos, Agustin Alonso-Terrero, and Mario Antonio Antunez-Sotelo, with both conspiracy and substantive counts alleging bringing in illegal aliens for financial gain, and harboring aliens for financial gain. Additionally, defendants Leon-Aldana and Antunez-Sotelo are charged with both a conspiracy and substantive violation involving obtaining and providing forced labor. The charges in the Superseding Indictment arise from the defendants' activities in 2006 as part of an alien smuggling operation that recruited aliens in Mexico, smuggled the aliens into the United States, harbored the aliens within San Diego, California, and then compelled their labor under physical threats.

The Superseding Indictment specifically alleges that defendants Juan Andres-Santos and Agustin Alonso-Terrero smuggled aliens into the United States from Mexico after defendant Antunez-Sotelo recruited the aliens at their homes in Mexico. The Superseding Indictment further alleges that, after the aliens were brought into the United States, they were harbored in apartments controlled by defendants Leon-Aldana and Antunez-Sotelo. Defendants Leon-Aldana and Antunez-Sotelo compelled the aliens to work by, among other things, threatening to physically harm the aliens or their families in Mexico.

Defendants Leon-Aldana, Andres-Santos, and Alonso-Terrero are currently in custody, and are expected to be arraigned this week by United States Magistrate Judge Cathy A. Bencivengo. Defendant Antunez-Sotelo remains at large, but a warrant has been issued for his arrest.

United States Attorney Hewitt praised the efforts by the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

DEFENDANTS Case Number: 07CR0035-L

Gloria Eugenia Leon-Aldana

Juan Andres-Santos

Agustin Alonso-Terrero

Mario Antonio Antunez-Sotelo

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

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|---------|--|
| Count 1 | 18 U.S.C. § 371; 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii) (conspiracy to bring in illegal aliens for financial gain)
Defendants: 1, 2, 3, 4
Maximum penalty: 5 years; \$250,000 Fine |
| Count 2 | 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii), (v)(I), and (B)(i) (conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens for financial gain)
Defendants: 1, 4
Maximum penalty: 10 years; \$250,000 Fine |
| Count 3 | 18 U.S.C. §§ 371, 1589, 1594 (forced labor conspiracy)
Defendants: 1, 4
Maximum penalty: 5 years; \$250,000 Fine |

Counts 4-9 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii) and 18 U.S.C. § 2 (bringing in illegal aliens for financial gain, and aiding and abetting)
Defendants: 1 (Counts 4-9), 2 (Counts 5,6), 3 (Counts 4-9), 4 (Counts 4-9)
Minimum penalty: 3 years (for one to two aliens), 5 years (for three or more aliens)
Maximum penalty: 10 years (for one to two aliens), 15 years (for three or more aliens);
\$250,000 Fine

Counts 10-15 8 U.S.C. §§ 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii), (v)(II), and (B)(i) (harboring illegal aliens for financial gain)
Defendants: 1 (Counts 10-15), 4 (Counts 10-15)
Maximum penalty: 10 years; \$250,000 Fine

Counts 16-19 18 U.S.C. §§ 1589, 1594, 2 (forced labor, attempted forced labor, and aiding and abetting)
Defendants: 1 (Counts 16-19), 4 (Counts 16-19)
Maximum penalty: 20 years; \$250,000 Fine

AGENCY

Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.